

# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GENEVA RESORT

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

- Images from the *Utah Lake: Legacy* Book
  - Garden City Resort (Pg. 17)
  - Provo Lake Resort (Pgs. 18-21)
  - Provona Beach (Pgs. 22-23)
  - Lincoln Beach (Pgs. 24-25)
  - SS Sho-Boat (Pgs. 26-32)

# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – GARDEN CITY RESORT

## GARDEN CITY RESORT.

Neils Omanson opened this resort near the mouth of the Provo River in June of 1889. Visitors found everything they needed to have a wonderful time. There were bathhouses and swimsuits to rent. Provo's Silver and Opera House bands and Professor Kent's military orchestra furnished music in a large dance pavilion that catered to the dancing crowd. A half-mile horseracing track had spectators cheering with excitement for their favorite nag. The steamer *Eastmond* provided a way for residents of the north end of Utah County to get to the resort by water. As many as 125 passengers could take a grand ride on the vessel, which was 40 feet long by 12 feet wide, and cruised at a speed of about 7 miles per hour.

VISITORS FOUND EVERYTHING  
THEY NEEDED TO HAVE A  
WONDERFUL TIME.

# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – PROVO LAKE RESORT



## PROVO LAKE RESORT.

After the Garden City Resort closed, the Provo Lake Resort was born. Its managers beckoned Provo locals to visit and enjoy the resort. "Owned by Provo People Managed By Provo People." The owners felt that a message emphasizing the resort's close-to-home feel would be the ticket to profits. After all, why would one travel as far as Geneva Resort when the best freshwater bathing area was so close to Provo? The resort also offered locals a dance pavilion, a restaurant and bar, a boathouse, and convenient transportation via rail, thanks to the Provo City Railroad.



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**GRAND OPENING**  
OF THE  
**Provo Lake Resort**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 18.**

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Among the attractions for this day will be

**A YACHT RACE**

Between St. V. LeSieur's yacht "Viking," and Julius Jensen's yacht "Edna."

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Concert and Ball will be given in the Evening by the Provo Military Band.

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Bathing is excellent. **NEW BATHING SUITS AND BATH HOUSES.**  
Twelve New Row Boats.  
The road to the Resort is in first-class condition for Bicycles and buggies.  
The Restaurant will be run in first-class style. You can have whatever your heart desires in the line of refreshments.

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Conveyances for the round trip to the Resort will leave Knights' and Sharp's livery stables every afternoon and evening. Round Trip, 25c.

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# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – PROVONA RESORT

## PROVONA BEACH RESORT.

The Taylor family started yet another recreational attraction near the mouth of the Provo River. The Provona Beach Resort opened in July 1921 as a basic, clean, family-oriented pleasure resort. In the early part of 1922, the owners faced their first great challenges. A strong winter storm forced huge chunks of ice onto shore and destroyed the bathhouses. Then, when the spring thaws came, the Provo River ran wild and flooded the resort. Finally, in 1925, Provona was reconstructed. There were new amenities and comforts for guests, such as electric power to light the bathhouses, a store that sold ice cream and soft drinks, and a movable pier to accommodate boaters when lake levels fluctuated. Boats were also rented out from the pier. Later, a lunchroom, complete with electric lights, picnic tables, and a sand floor, was added. Clover was planted on the grounds for picnickers to enjoy, and swings were added for the children.

As recreation became more popular, choices for entertainment expanded. Around 1926, entrepreneurial pilots from near and far began landing on the lake's beaches to offer rides to thrill seekers. For just 25 cents, the brave and adventurous could see the lake from above in all its glory.

One of the most exciting events at Provona was the July 4 celebration of 1930. Two mock battleships were built to re-enact the Battle of Manila Bay, complete with specially made shells and fireworks to make the battle all the more realistic. The event was advertised in neighboring communities, and even as far north as Ogden. On July 4, more than 4,000 cars full of people arrived to witness the "Great Naval Battle." But first, guests enjoyed a full day of activities including a parade of bathing beauties, modern vaudeville acts, instrumental numbers, and vocal performances. On the river, there were swimming races, diving contests, and aqua-board riding demonstrations. The battle itself was perfectly executed and spectators left happy, and exhausted, sometime after midnight.



# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – PROVONA RESORT



## *At Provona Beach Sunset Bathing Is Great*

It's great! Splash in the waves of Provona Beach. The swimming is fine! A big, broad, clean sandy beach. Bathing suits, bath houses and every convenience. The ideal place to bring the whole family for a swim. Jump in the car - - it only takes a few minutes to get there. Drive straight west on Center St.

**Eat Your Luncheon In Cool Breezes  
Under the Trees at Provona Beach**



## *Provona Beach The Resort Beautiful On Lake Utah*

Let's go! A big open, clean sandy beach to play on. Pure lake breezes. Boating! Bonfires! BATHING! ... and a world of fun and frolic.

### *Dancing, Parties! Outings!*

Good music and a big solid maple floor in an open air dance pavilion. Jitney dances and private dancing parties.

### *Refreshments at City Prices!*

Complete fountain service from large new fountain just installed. Root Beer in the stein! Hot Dogs! Hamburgers! Bottled drinks and all candies and confectionery at city prices.

**Real Pleasure At Provona Beach  
At The Mouth of Provo River**

# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – LINCOLN BEACH

## LINCOLN BEACH.

The old resort is long gone, but the "new" Lincoln Beach on the south end of Utah Lake is still a well-used area for boating. It has also become a magnet for walleye anglers. Warm springs can be found near the remains of what is now referred to as Old Lincoln Beach.

**"Lincoln Beach, the new bathing resort at the point of the mountain west of this city is now in running order. They have eight bath houses and twenty-five suits on hand. A pier 100 yards long is being built out into the lake, at the end of which a large platform will be built for the benefit of bathers and spectators. The steamer *Helen of Provo* had been engaged to run between that place and Lincoln Beach on Sunday next at 25c for the round trip, and in addition they have a number of row boats [*sic*] for hire. Refreshments in the shape of ice cream, soda water, etc. will be provided, and a general good time is expected."** — *The Spanish Fork Sun*, July 14th, 1892.

# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – LINCOLN BEACH



# UTAH LAKE RESORTS – S.S. SHO-BOAT

## GRAND TIMES ON THE S.S. SHO-BOAT.

The S.S. Sho-Boat was a bright light in the dark times of the Great Depression. Built by Hewitt Strong and Elmer Smith, the Sho-Boat was their way of promoting Utah Lake as a “recreational mecca,” as Hewitt called it. Both men loved the lake and used it often – they even found a way to enjoy it in the winter. The two designed and built an ice boat on sleigh-like runners. It was propelled by an airplane motor and steered by rudders, but it had no brakes. The fearless Strong and Smith had a great time whipping across the lake at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour.

With the S.S. Sho-Boat, the ambitious duo knew they had something special in the making. Hewitt envisioned not only “a summer boat...carrying passengers to points of interest surrounding the lake,” but one that could be the center of entertainment. At 90 feet long and 22 feet wide, the Sho-Boat was the largest and most luxuriously equipped vessel to ever sail on Utah

Lake. Passengers were invited to glide across the dance floor or enjoy live music played from the stage. There was also a galley for serving catered snacks and meals. The grand boat’s first official cruise, which took place on April 11, 1932, was privately chartered by the Utah State Dentists’ Association.

The Sho-Boat’s first public cruise was launched on April 25, 1932. Fifty cents bought an adult round-trip ticket; children from ages seven to 15 paid only 25 cents each to ride. Strong and Smith usually took passengers to Bird (Rock) Island every Sunday afternoon. It was just 6 miles from the mouth of the Provo River, but at a cruising speed of 8 miles per hour, a round trip and a short visit to the island could take up to four hours. Passengers got a great amount of enjoyment out of their fares, and considered a tour on this beautiful boat a rare treat during tough times.

**“It [the Sho-Boat] always went out every Sunday afternoon to Rock Island. I remember taking a girl there when I was 17, out to the island. That was romantic.” — Rex Blake, 87, Vineyard, UT.**

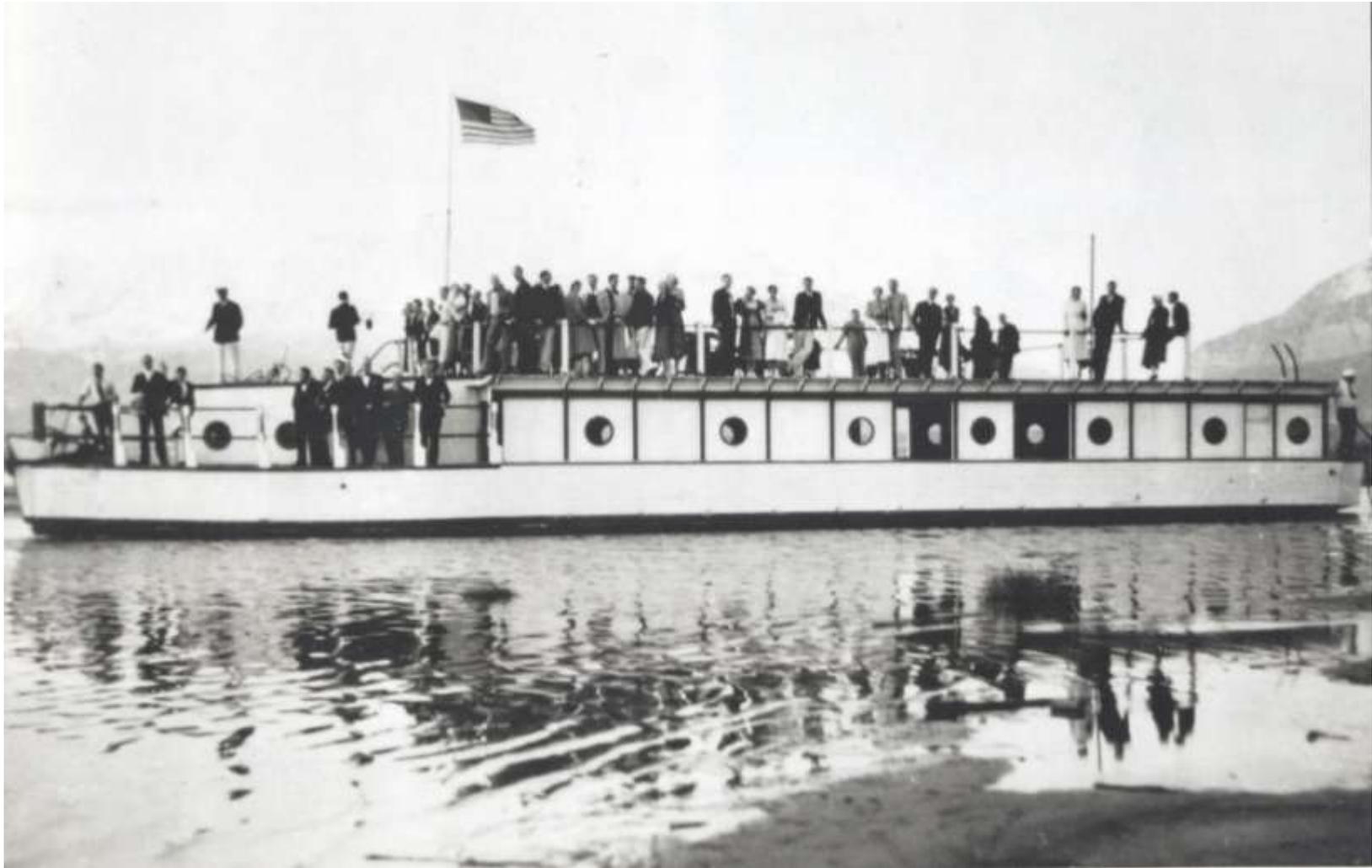
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